Are Christians Under the Law? (Part II)

But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.
John 15:21-22 (KJV)

Christ here speaks of why He was rejected by the Pharisees and why the world will continue to reject us. If He had not come we would still be judging others by their outward appearance according to the Law as the Pharisees did. They thought themselves blameless because they were maintaining the appearance of leading a righteous life. But Christ revealed the sin deep in the Pharisees own hearts for them to plainly see, there was no more cloak to hide it from them. It was for this that He was hated and crucified.

This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit at work. The Pharisees did not have the Holy Spirit; it was the words that Christ spoke that convicted them. Similarly the Holy Spirit living in us convicts in the same way. If we are not living for Christ we will grieve the Holy Spirit and it will eventually depart from us.

Quench not the Spirit.
1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV)

One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit operating in our lives is to convict us when we sin. If we do not accept this correction from the Holy Spirit and judge ourselves we hinder His work in our lives. It is us who suffer the consequences. We must never forget that the Holy Spirit is our Helper, He is there to convict us when we sin for our own benefit.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
Ephesians 4:30-31 (KJV)

Now since God's law was written in our hearts by the presence of the Holy Spirit we immediately know when we transgress. So what happens next? When we inevitably sin (because we are still sinners) what is our reaction? A good number of us will do everything except what we should, which is to simply confess, repent and move on. Let's go back to the Garden of Eden to illustrate.

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.
Genesis 3:12-13 (KJV)

We play "The blame game". We make excuses for our sins in order to justify ourselves. We blame others just as

Adam and Eve did, or we blame our tempers, our race, the weather or any of an infinite number of other excuses. One of the great sins of this world is how we blame everyone else for things that are our own faults. We call people who tell us the truth bigots when we know they are just telling us a truth that we don't want to hear. We sue innocent people for accidents that we know are our own faults. We need to start holding ourselves accountable for our own actions.

> **And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.**
> **Genesis 3:7 (KJV)**

We try to cover our sins. If we can't blame someone else we try to hide our sins, hoping that God won't notice. We think nobody can see it, we think our sin is cloaked just as the Pharisees did. But God sees it and that is all that matters.

> **And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.**
> **Genesis 3:8 (KJV)**

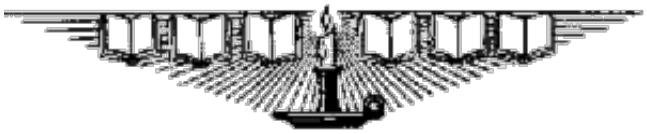
Finally, we avoid God's presence. The problem here as I stated before in **"Knowing our Adversary (Part IX)"** is that all that these wrong moves we make serve to do is distance us from God. When we ignore that "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit whispering the law written in our hearts we quench it and it becomes increasingly faint. If we continue to do so we will grieve the Holy Spirit and it will depart from us. And it isn't because we have sinned, but because we don't confess and repent, and sincerely meaning it of course.

> **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**
> **Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV)**

Early on after our salvation experience we define what kind of Christians we really are by how we react when the Holy Spirit convicts us. Will we obey that still small voice or will our salvation be a sham? The Pharisees quenched the Spirit that convicted them of their sins by nailing Him to a tree, what will you do?

We cannot live a double life; there is no fence to sit on. We are either living for Christ and obeying that still small voice or we have quenched and grieved it. We must live our lives as Christians on Christ's terms. To reject the instruction of the Holy Spirit is to reject Christ. The Father, Son and Spirit are one.

GO TO PART III



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